

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 2007

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

The Honorable Carl R. Peed
Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales and Director Peed

We write to express strong support for the National Training Center located in Sioux City, Iowa, and respectfully request that the Department of Justice and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services consider the Center as it proceeds in distributing FY07 funds. The Center was slated to receive funds through the Commerce, Justice, State spending bill, but were eliminated due to the Continuing Resolution. The Center may have to close its doors if funding is not secured this year.

The National Training Center utilizes a regional approach to bring communities and criminal justice agencies together in an effort to control the growing national problem of methamphetamine, poly drug trafficking organizations, and their associated crimes. It serves as a clearinghouse for organization, coordination, curriculum development and intelligence sharing that benefits everyone impacted by methamphetamine. The Center also provides up-to-date information and training on the growing trend of terrorists using the sale of illegal drugs to fund their activities.

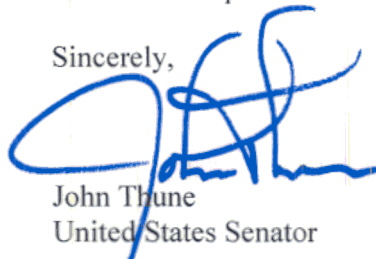
The National Training Center has a proven record around the country. To date over 20,000 officials from 40 states have taken advantage of the training offered at the training center. These include all levels of enforcement at the local, state and federal levels – in both rural and large metropolitan areas. With the experience gained through eight years of continuous operation, the training center has been able to make connections with the premier educators and trainers from across the country in fields of expertise related to methamphetamine, prevention, mitigation, enforcement and prosecution.

It's important to note that this Center has been authorized by Congress and was included in the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162). As pointed out in the law, the Department of Justice is authorized to expend \$3 million in FY2008 and FY2009 to utilize the services at the national Training Center. We hope that you will agree that funding by the Administration is key to the Center's continued success and essential for overall public safety.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator


John Thune
United States Senator


Chuck Hagel
United States Senator

United States Senate

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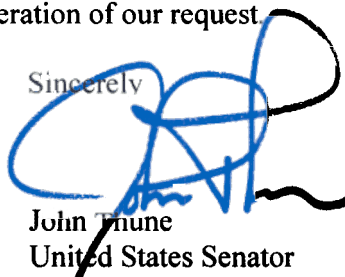
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